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INSPECTOR KOZABURO HIMURO

Kozaburo Himuro is the reclusive head of Special Unit A (aka the Crypt). From within his secluded headquarters, Himuro uses his genius intellect and understanding of the criminal mind to help solve the most heinous and bizarre cases. Due to mysterious events in his past, he is incapable of leaving the Crypt to face the world and his own personal demons.

DETECTIVE KURUMI AYAKI

As Inspector Himuro's eyes and ears outside the Crypt, Kurumi Ayaki helps investigate the gruesome crimes assigned to Special Unit A. Although completely out of her element, Ayaki's heart and determination help compensate for her lack of practical experience. It is Ayaki's emotional tenacity combined with Himuro's cold logic that may be the team's greatest asset.

Previously in REMOTE...

Former meter maid Kurumi Ayaki is now a field operative in the Metropolitan Police Department's Special Unit A. Working directly under the reclusive Inspector Himuro Kozaburo, Ayaki acts as his eyes and ears on the street, as the team attempts to solve the city's most heinous crimes. Their first case was the infamous Serial Killer Circus Murders. It nearly became Ayaki's last. Nevertheless, Ayaki decided to stay on with the unit and tackle her next assignment.

Posing as a student at an "elite" high school, Ayaki tries to ferret out suspects in a serial bombing case. But surveillance turns to survival when the mad bomber strikes within the school, sealing off all exits. Now, while Himuro calls the shots remotely from "The Crypt," Ayaki desperately attempts to unmask the bomber before the classroom becomes a mass grave.

Remote Vol. 3

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VOLUME 3

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VOL. 2

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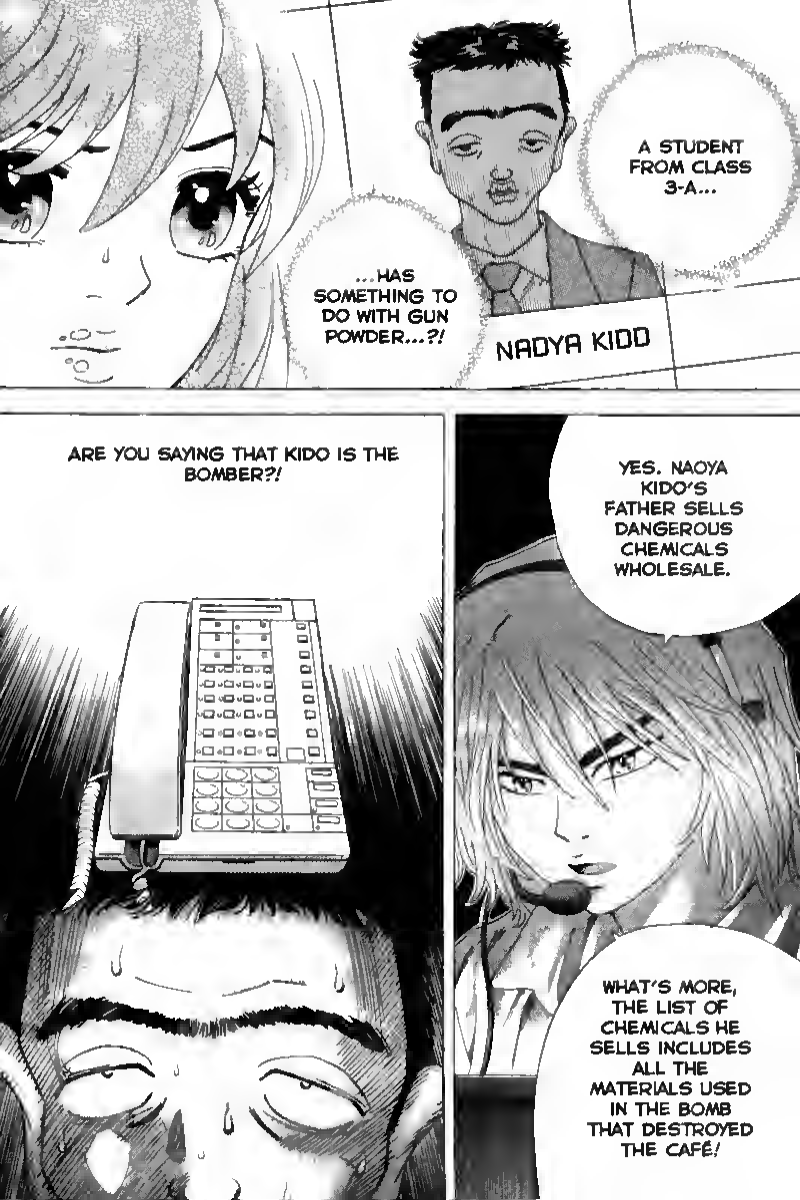

A STUDENT FROM CLASS 3-A...
...HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH GUN POWDER...?!
NAOYA KIDO
ARE YOU SAYING THAT KIDO IS THE BOMBER?!
YES. NAOYA KIDO'S FATHER SELLS DANGEROUS CHEMICALS WHOLESALE.
WHAT'S MORE, THE LIST OF CHEMICALS HE SELLS INCLUDES ALL THE MATERIALS USED IN THE BOMB THAT DESTROYED THE CAFÉ!

WELL ..I'M NOT SURE YET BUT HE IS MOST LIKELY INVOLVED.
"INVOLVED?"
ARE...ARE YOU SURE IT'S AROUND HERE?
SO MOVE!
NO MATTER--IF WE DON'T TAKE CARE OF THE MAIN BOMB, THERE WON'T BE ANYONE ALIVE TO ARREST!
!!
THE MAIN BOMB...?
THE ENTRANCE HALL YOU'RE AT RIGHT NOW IS...
YES.

...CENTRALLY LOCATED, AND THEREFORE A PRIME SPOT TO CAUSE DAMAGE. YOU ARE NOW DIRECTLY UNDERNEATH CLASS 3-A!
WHAT?!!
YES, IT IS AN INTER-ESTING COINCI-DENCE...
NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT THE HALL IS A MAIN EXIT. THIS MAKES IT THE MOST EFFECTIVE PLACE TO KILL AS MANY AS POSSIBLE.

はあ
はあ
はあ
EFFECTIVE?!
THAT GIRL...
...THE TRANSFER STUDENT...
...MARINA KUDO IS...
...SHE IS...!!

GYAAH!!

YUSUKE?!
GASP!!
I WAS...
N-NO... I WAS...
NAOYA, YOU BASTARD! YOU WERE TRYING TO ESCAPE AGAIN, WEREN'T YOU?!
I'M GONE FIVE MINUTES...
NOT WHILE MY LIFE IS AT RISK...
THAT'S IT! NOBODY GETS AN OUNCE OF MERCY OUT OF ME! I DON'T CARE IF IT'S MY BUDDIES OR EVEN MY OWN GIRLFRIEND!!
HEH HEH HEH...

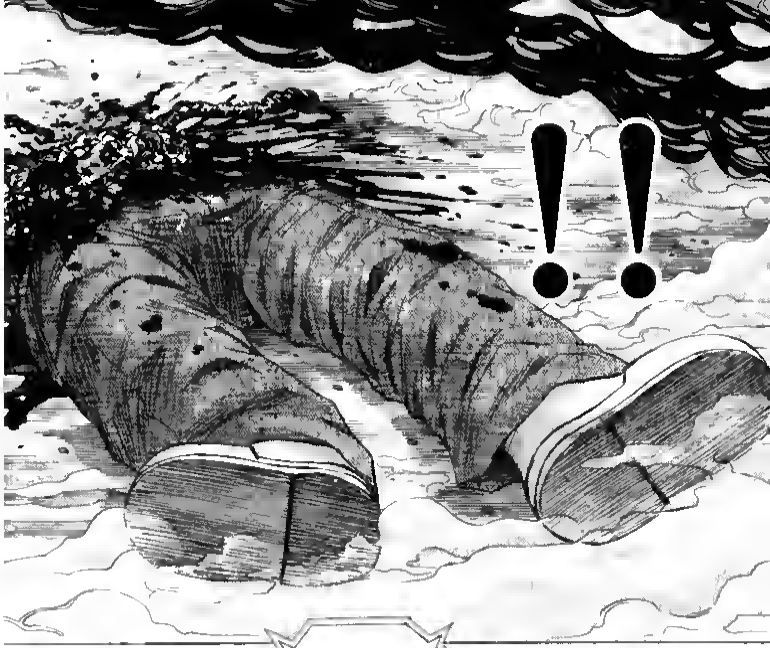
HEH! I TOLD YOU! THAT'S NOT TRUE!
MINA WAS JUST SCARED, AND...
THESE TWO WERE SNEAKING AROUND, TOO! YOU IDIOTS JUST DON'T GET IT...! YOU'RE GONNA KILL US ALL!
HA HA HA HA HA!
YOUR EXCUSES DON'T MATTER! ANYONE WHO'S NOT IN THE CLASSROOM IS A BETRAYER!!
SHUT UP! HOW CAN I TRUST ANY OF YOU COWARDS?!
ANYONE... ANYONE WHO GETS IN MY WAY-- BETTER WATCH OUT!!

OH!!
YUSUKE... HE'S TOTALLY LOST IT!!
AT THIS RATE... THERE'S NO WAY I'LL GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE!!
YUSUKE, LISTEN...
THE NEW TRANSFER STUDENT--MARINA KUDO--SHE'S GONE MISSING, TOO!
NOW I'M SAFE...
WHAT...?

BE CAREFUL! DON'T TOUCH THE SMALL EXPLOSIVES...! THERE'S AN INFRARED LIGHT SENSOR...
AYAKI!
LISTEN--THESE TYPES OF CRIMES ARE USUALLY THE WORK OF ONE DERANGED MAN.
A WHAT?!
HOW DO YOU KNOW...?
THE SUB-PRINCIPAL WAS PROBABLY KILLED BECAUSE HE TOUCHED AN AUTOMATED SENSOR
EVEN STILL-- THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN WATCH ALL THE ENTRANCES BY HIMSELF.
WHICH MEANS...IF I TOUCH A SENSOR...

YOU'LL FIT INTO ZIP-LOCK BAGGIES.
SO BE CAREFUL, OKAY?
GULP!
O-OKAY...
JUST STAY ALERT AND REPORT TO ME AS YOU GO.
WE'LL TRY TO SPOT THE SENSORS TOGETHER

AAEI!
YAEI!!


!!

...WHERE THERE'S NO ORMAGE
PROBABLY IN A PLACE. .
YOU NEED TO KEEP IT TOGETHER!
AH... AHHH.
THE MAIN BOMB IS SEPERATED FROM THE SMALLER ONE
NOW. KEEP LOOKING.

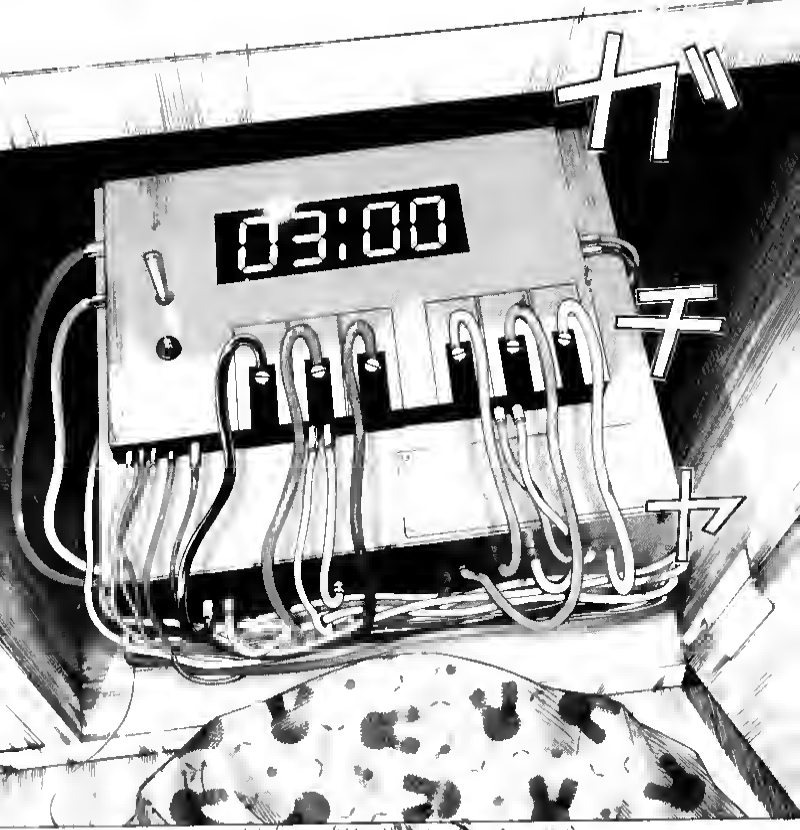
I F-FOUND THE SUB-PRINCIPAL'S LEGS--
WHAT IS IT?!
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE SCREAMING?! I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN DANGER!
--RNO NOT MUCH ELSE...!!
T-THE SUB-PRINCIPAL...

OH...
THERE'S A ROW OF LOCKERS... THEY LOOK INTACT...

WHAAAT?! WON'T IT EXPLODE IF I OPEN IT?!
IT MIGHT...
THAT'S IT! NOW CHECK THEM OUT!
WELL, HEY-- AS LONG AS YOU'RE NOT WORRIED. II
FOCUS, DETECTIVE!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DEFUSE THIS SITUATION!
RIGHT... DEFUSE...

LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY... I WANT YOU TO INSPECT THE LOCKER DOORS.
DO YOU SEE ANYTHING UNUSUAL BETWEEN THE DOORS?
LIKE A THIN THREAD?
OH...
YES! THERE'S SOME KIND OF A THREAD OVER THIS LOCKER DOOR! IT'S ALMOST INVISIBLE!
IS IT A BOOBY TRAP?
EXACTLY! IF SOMEONE CARELESSLY PULLS A DOOR OPEN...
THE LEAD LINE DISCONNECTS, AND THE TRIGGERING DEVICE IS SET OFF

CAN YOU SLIP IT OFF WITHOUT BREAKING IT?
THAT HAS TO BE IT.
I-I DID IT!
OKAY...! I'M OPENING IT...!!
WAS THAT THE ONLY ONE?
EXCELLENT. NOW, OPEN THE LOCKER.
HURRY! YOU'VE BEEN AWAY FROM THE CLASS TOO LONG!

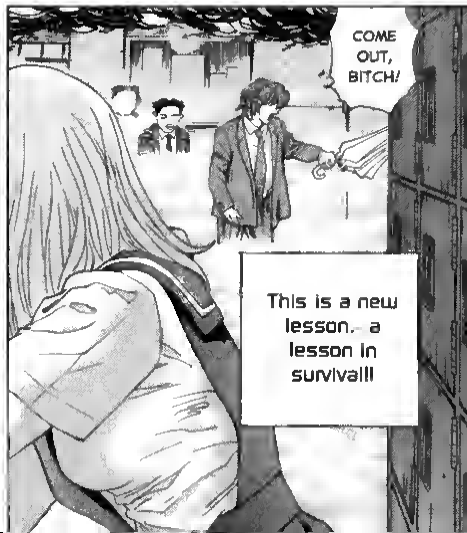

ガチャ
03:00

IT'S THE BOMB!!
HOLY...!

...BEFORE SOMEONE FINDS YOU.
03:00
GOOD. NOW YOU HAVE TO DISARM IT...
!!
!!

If someone tries to escape--punish them without mercy!

file.19 END



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03./

STORY_BY:SEIMARU_[illegible]

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EXPLICIT CONTENT

PARENTAL ADVISORY

EXPLICIT CONTENT

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-REMOTE- 4

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METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
UNSOLVED CASE REPORT

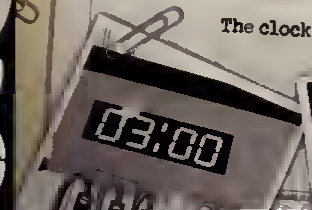
GENERAL INFORMATION		
Case file number	Previous officer assigned	Det. A. Seimaru
TH-X1-138	Current officer assigned	Officer K. Ayaki
Investigation status		

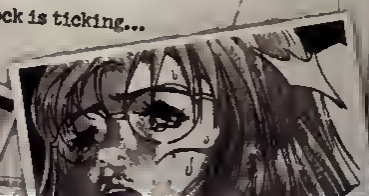
Officer Ayaki reporting.

The location of the main bomb in the school has been revealed, but disarming it is another atory. I'm still undercover, but some students may be on to me. And I'm discovering some secrets about this school--deep dark secrets.

Meanwhile, for my next assignment, Inspector Himuro has me lined up to act as bodyguard for some punk kid. But first thing's first: I have to get to the bottom of the mess at this school before the whole place blows.

The clock is ticking...





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FILE 20 SURVIVAL SCHOOL
DEFUSING THE BOMB

INSPECTOR KIMURO!! THE STUDENTS ARE LOOKING FOR ME..!!
W-WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WHAT?!
IF THEY FIND ME NEAR THE BOMB
...THEY MIGHT THINK...
...I'M THE BOMBER!!

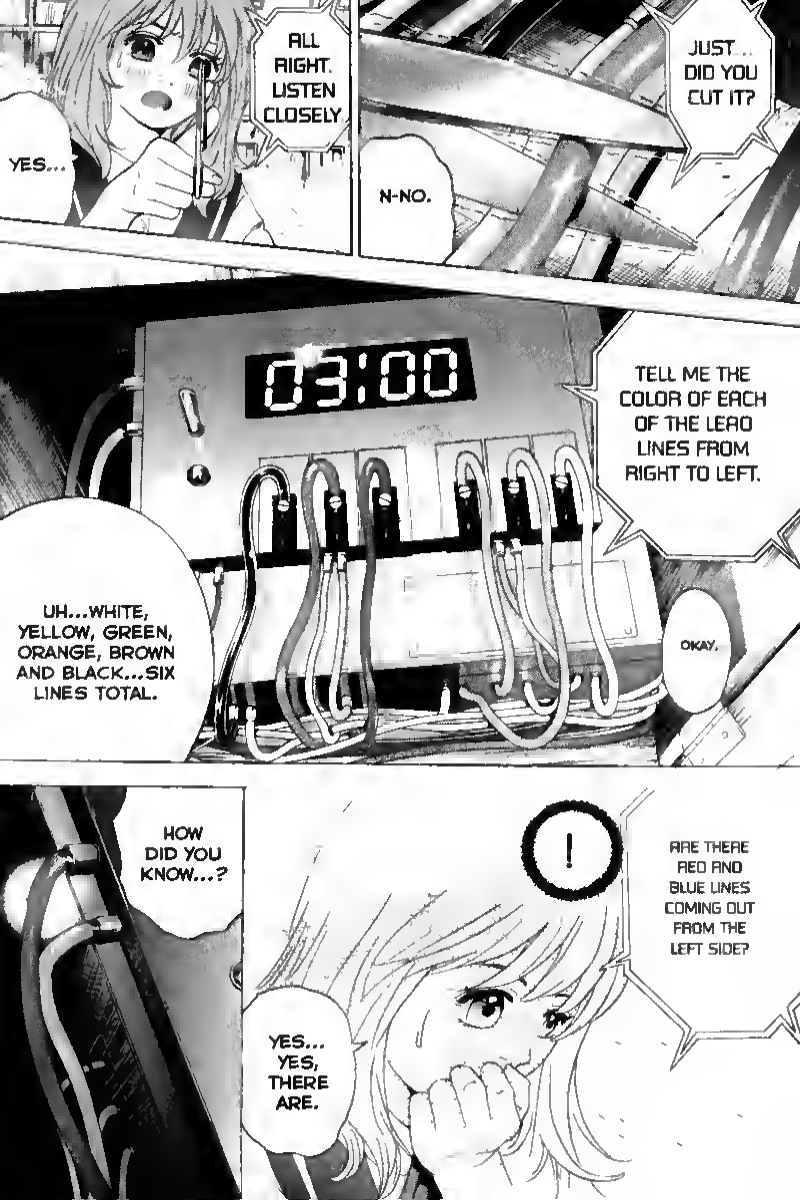
CAN'T SEE!
SHIT!! I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING IN THIS CRAP!!
WHAT?! BUT THEY'LL KILL ME IF THEY--
AYAKI! THE BOMB CAN GO OFF AT ANY TIME!
IF YOU DON'T DEAL WITH IT NOW, YOU'LL BE DEAD ANYWAY!!
SO FAR I'VE BEEN LUCKY! I'M STILL HIDDEN BECAUSE OF THE SMOKE!
FINE. KEEP WORKING.

SO JUST BREATHE... FOCUS... AND DISARM THE BOMB.
O-OKAY...
OH... UM...
03:00
THERE'S A BUNCH OF WIRES...AND SOMETHING THAT LOOKS LIKE A SWITCH. OH! AND A DIGITAL CLOCK THAT'S FLASHING RED...
OUCH! I-I'M SURE!
ARE YOU SURE YOU SAW HER HERE?!
...
ALL RIGHT. DESCRIBE THE BOMB TO ME.

WHAT TIME DOES IT SHOW?
IT...IT SAYS 0300.
IS THE TIME COUNTING UP OR DOWN?
LOOKS LIKE IT'S STOPPED...
03:00
THAT MEANS THREE MINUTES.
WHAT?!
JUST AS I SAID--IT'S SET TO EXPLODE IN THREE MINUTES.

OH...
TAKA TAKA TAKA
DON'T WORRY. IF YOU CUT THE LEAD LINES IN THE CORRECT ORDER, WE CAN PREVENT THE EXPLOSION.
I HAVE WIRE-CUT-TERS.
I-I SEE. S-SO...I SHOULD CUT THE LEAD LINES, RIGHT?
I GUESS... I GUESS I'LL CUT IT NOW...

STOP, YOU IDIOT!!
WAIT!!
YOU HAVE TO CUT THEM IN A SPECIFIC ORDER!!
OOOPS...


ALL RIGHT. LISTEN CLOSELY
YES...
JUST... DID YOU CUT IT?
N-NO.
03:00
TELL ME THE COLOR OF EACH OF THE LEAD LINES FROM RIGHT TO LEFT.
UH...WHITE, YELLOW, GREEN, ORANGE, BROWN AND BLACK...SIX LINES TOTAL.
OKAY.
HOW DID YOU KNOW...?
!
ARE THERE RED AND BLUE LINES COMING OUT FROM THE LEFT SIDE?
YES... YES, THERE ARE.

...I HAVE THEM ALL IN MY HEAD.
THERE ARE ONLY A FEW REFERENCES AVAILABLE FOR AN AMATEUR TO BUILD A BOMB. PLUS, THERE ARE ONLY ABOUT A HUNDRED OR SO PATTERNS, SO...
PIP
HEY, KOU! I MADE IT TO THE PASSWORD SCREEN SOMEHOW!
NICE WORK, BOB.
THANKS. SO--WHAT NEXT?
BEEP
DON'T GET AHEAD OF YOURSELF.
!
WHOA! I FEEL SAVED ALREADY! ♡

PASSWORD
START IT NOW. ENTER PASSWORD
DON'T YOU HAVE SOME HINTS FOR THE PASSWORD?
WHAT? THAT'S ALL...?
YEP. I BURNED IT TO A CD.
DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE THE PASSWORD ANALYZING SOFTWARE THAT I E-MAILED YOU?
JUST START IT FOR NOW. I NEED TO KNOW HOW TO DEFUSE THE BOMB AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I FIND SOMETHING.
BZZ
BZZ
BZZ
CLICK
SIGH...
BUT... THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I CAN FIND THE PASSWORD WITHOUT A HINT!
NORMALLY IT WOULD TAKE A MONTH TO--
GOOD LUCK.

OH... WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME SO?
SORRY. I WAS TALKING TO BOB.
OH, O-OKAY.
LET'S CONTINUE.
INSPEC-TOR...? INSPEC-TOR?!
HELLO?
PIP
スッ

INS-
PEC-
TOR...!!
MINA
MA-
TSUO-
KA .
..YU-
SUKE
SAWA-
MURA..
..EIJI
MURA-
KI..

...AND NAOYA KIDO!!

THEY'VE FOUND ME!!

CLOSE THE LOCKER DOOR IMMEDIATELY! DON'T LET THEM SEE IT!!
WHAT?!
ﾊｯ.
SLAM

WE'VE FOUND YOU AT LAST!!
MARINA, MY LOVE...

COME HERE, BITCH!!
!!
AAEEIIAAEEII!!

AYAKI...
AYA...

PING
NOOOOOO!!
HE'S DOING IT AGAIN...
JUST LIKE HE DID IT TO AKANE!! ♡

AK...
AKANE...

OH MY GOD!
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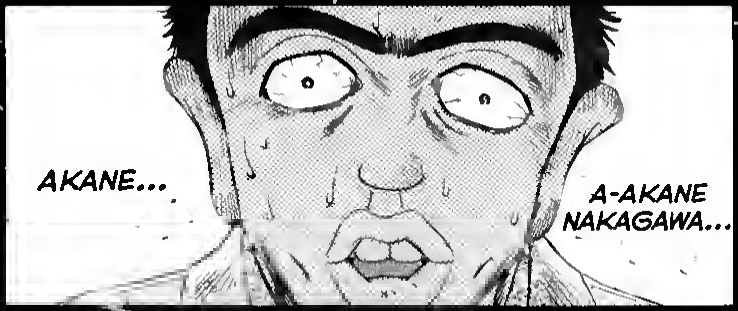
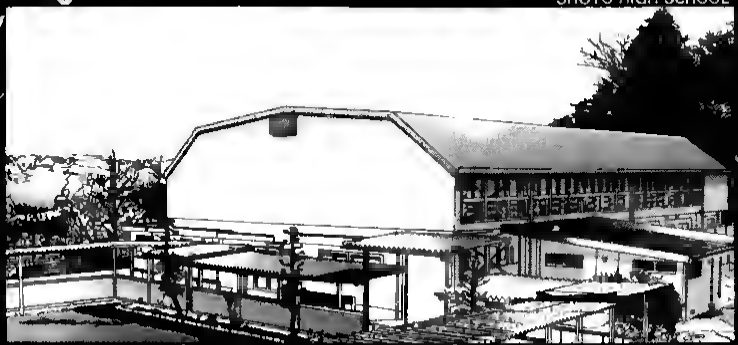
NO...!!
STOP IT!!
NO...!!
STOP IT!!



SHOTO HIGH SCHOOL



UM...
UH... THIS IS...
UM...I-I WANT YOU TO READ THIS LETTER...
FOR ME?
NAOYA...
WHAT...?
I-I'VE WRITTEN ABOUT MY FEELINGS FOR YOU, AKANE...

AWWW! ISN'T THIS ADORABLE! NAOYA IS EXPRESSING HIS UNDYING LOVE!
"DEAR AKANE...HOW I DREAM OF PUTTING MY UGLY FACE UP YOUR SKIRT!"
HEH HEH!
AW, NO... YUSUKE!!
UM, UH...H-HEY GUYS! I'M NOT...
Y-YOU GOT IT WRONG...

WHAT'S WRONG?
NO! NOT HERE!
NO...
HEH HEH ...
STUPID BITCH! WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE RUNNIN'?!
YOU ALREADY BELONG TO ME--"GIRL A!"
AKANE?!

HUH?!
"GIRL A?!"
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
WHAT'S THIS...?
...THE E-MAIL EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT...?
BLEEP!
COULD IT BE...
OH NO...
THE "HOOKER E-MAIL?!"
THIS FOR REAL?
CHECK THIS OUT!
E-MAIL...
NO SHIT!
THIS CHICK GOES TO OUR SCHOOL?!

HEY!!
Y-YOU'RE SAYING THAT AKANE...
Y-YOU...
STAY OUTTA MY BUSINESS! COMPRENDE ASSHOLE?!
...YUSUKE IS...
THIS LOVELY GIRL WILL TAKE GOOD CARE OF YOU!! JUST CALL...
THAT MEANS...
CALL GIRL A
ONLY 20,000 YEN!
TAX INCLUDED, OF COURSE!
...A PIMP?!
B-BUSINESS?!

20,000 YEN...
UM...
H-HERE...
すっ

JUST... JUST FINISH UP BEFORE THE BELL RINGS... OKAY?
NUH... NUH...
NUH...
S-SURE

SHE NEVER EVEN READ MY LETTER...
A FEW MONTHS LATER, AKANE KILLED HERSELF!

AND ALL THANKS TO THAT BASTARD YUSUKE!!
WHAT HE DID... IS UNFORGIVABLE!
NO!!
STOP!! LET GO OF ME!!
I WASN'T TRYING TO ESCAPE!!
SHUT UP!! NO MORE EXCUS-ES!!

STOP IT!!
NO...!!
SHUT UP!
DON'T ACT LIKE THIS IS NEW!
AH!
YOU'RE A PRO NOW! YOU'VE PROBABLY FUCKED MOST OF THE GUYS IN THIS SCHOOL!
HEH HEH HEH...
BUT I WAS YOUR FIRST! THAT'S SPECIAL...
ZIP

ププププ
GET A ROOM!
TAKE IT, BITCH!
UNH... UNH...

AKANE...
I'M SO SORRY...
...THAT I DIDN'T HELP YOU...
AKANE...
AH..
AHH..
DRIP
GAAAH!!

PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT
YOU LITTLE BITCH
AYAK!!! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF...
NOW I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT I DO WITH WHORES LIKE YOU!!
AYAKI! ARE YOU OKAY?!

WE HAVE TO FIND THEM BEFORE THEY TRY TO ESCAPE!!
YEAH!
WHAT?
MS. SAKAKI/ THEY'VE BEEN GONE TOO LONG!
3-A
SHE'S NUTS!!
SHE LET THEM COME AND GO AS THEY PLEASE!
LET'S FIND THEM!
BUT...I TRUST ALL OF YOU, SO--
THOSE CREEPS CAN'T BE TRUSTED!
YEAH! I'M SURE THEY'RE TRYING TO ESCAPE!!
WHAT...?!
OKAY THEN, STUDENTS--LET'S DO IT!!

ALL OF OUR LIVES ARE AT RISK! SO I SAY WE GO AND LOOK FOR THEM-- TOGETHER!
MR. EMA...!

HUH?
WHAT IS THAT...? A CELL PHONE HOLSTER...?
UH...
JUST WHO IS THIS BITCH?! AND WHY IS SHE HIDING THAT IN HER SKIRT?!

HE'LL KILL ME IF HE GETS HIS HANDS ON IT!! WHAT SHOULD I DO?
N-NO...!! MY GUN...!!
EIJI! SEE WHAT ELSE SHE'S HIDING!
UH...
I MUST'VE HIT MY HEAD...
I CAN'T MOVE!
NO...
AYAKI...!!
IN...
INSPECTOR...
HELP...!
SNAP

YUSUKE!!

OH MY GOD!
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FILE 22 SURVIVAL SCHOOL
SCHOOL FULL OF LIES

AAIIEEE!!
YUSUKE!!
!!

YEEARRGH!!
HURK...!
NAOYA... KIDO?!
YU...
YU...
YUSUKE
I-I C-CAN'T...

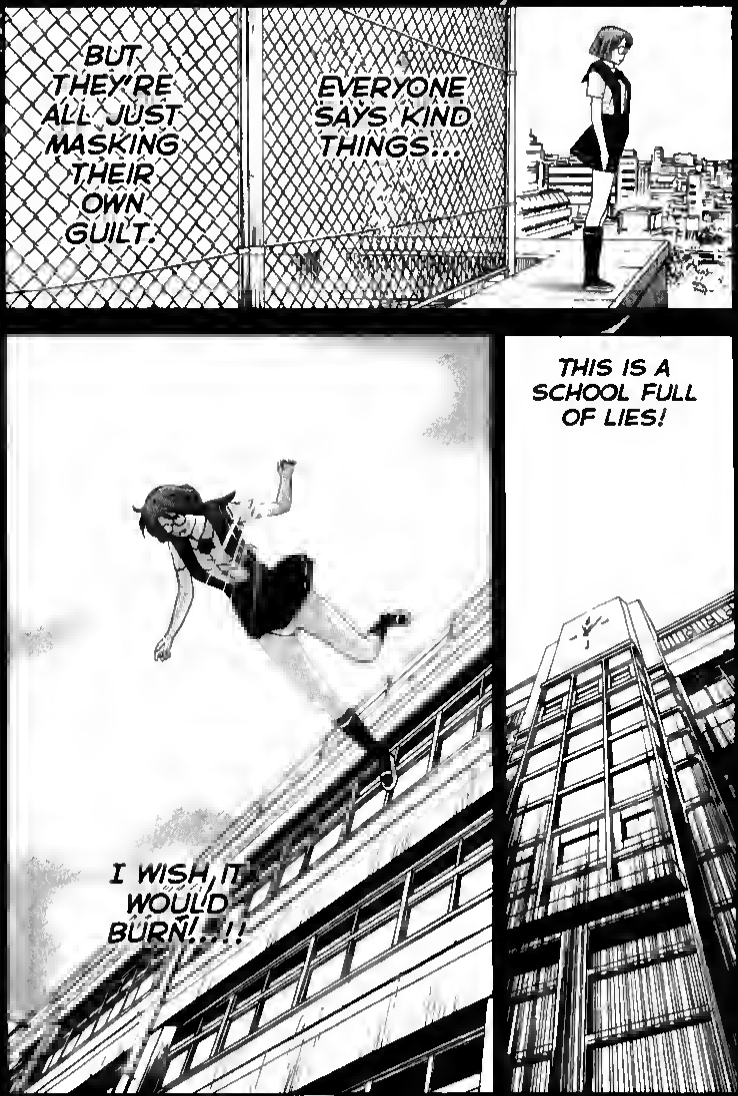
I JUST CAN'T FORGIVE YOU FOR KILLING AKANE!!
I CAN'T!!

THERE THEY ARE!!
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS DOING?! STOP!!
MS. SAKAKI!
HUFF...
FUCKER...
UH...
ARE YOU OKAY, MARINA?
CAN YOU STAND?

MY GOD!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE TO MS. AYAKI?!
HUH?
MS ...
...AY-AKI?!
OH! I-I MEAN...MISS K-KUDO...
YOU'RE RIGHT, AKANE.
THIS IS A SCHOOL FULL OF LIES. IT DESERVES TO BURN!

NO!
GET AWAY FROM ME!!
I DON'T TRUST ANYONE ANY-MORE!
NO!
I DON'T WANNA HEAR IT!
I JUST...
AKANE, I...
EVERYONE GIVES ME 20,000 YEN AND SYMPATHY...
YOU JUST WANT TO HAVE SEX WITH ME, DON'T YOU?!

DON'T...
...LET YUSUKE PUT YOU DOWN.
DON'T WORRY... I WON'T TELL...!
UNH! OH AKANE...!
ゴス
ゴス
ゴス
I'M...
...ON YOUR SIDE.
10000 YEN
NIPPON GIN


BUT THEY'RE ALL JUST MASKING THEIR OWN GUILT.
EVERYONE SAYS KIND THINGS...
I WISH IT WOULD BURN!..!!
THIS IS A SCHOOL FULL OF LIES!

OH...MY... GOD...!! HOW HORRIBLE!!
だ
わ
あ
!!
BECAUSE YOU DROVE AKANE TO KILL HERSELF!!
YUSUKE! THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!

I SEE...
NAOYA... ARE YOU THE BOMBER?!
A-AYAKI! ARE YOU OKAY?!
WE CAN'T BE SURE OF THAT.
IT LOOKS LIKE KIOO IS THE BOMBER!
IN...INSPECTOR!!
EVEN STILL-- HAVE YOUR GUN READY... JUST IN CASE!

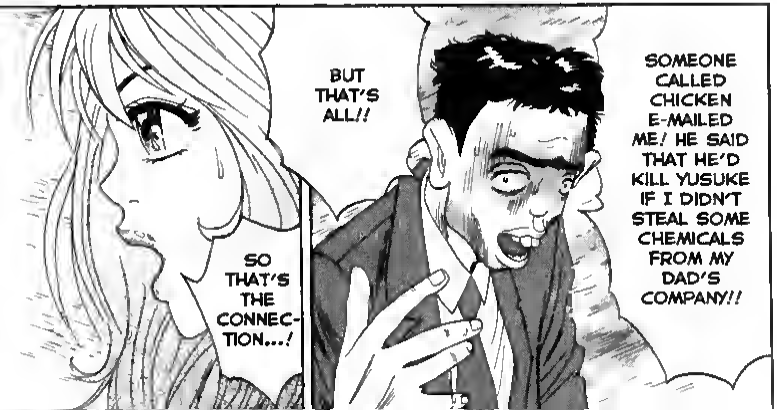
IS THIS HOW IT MUST END?!
IT MAKES SENSE! NAKAMURA WAS ONE OF PEOPLE WHO SCREWED GIRL A!!
NAOYA!! IF YOU'RE THE BOMBER... THEN IT WAS YOU WHO KILLED NAKAMURA, WASN'T IT?!

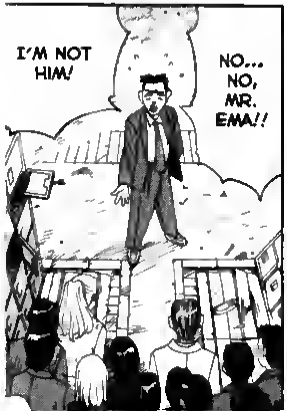
!!
I-
I'M...
I'M
NOT
THE
BOMB-
ER...!
I...
I JUST LIKED...
AKANE NAKAGAWA. .
I JUST
LIKED HER...

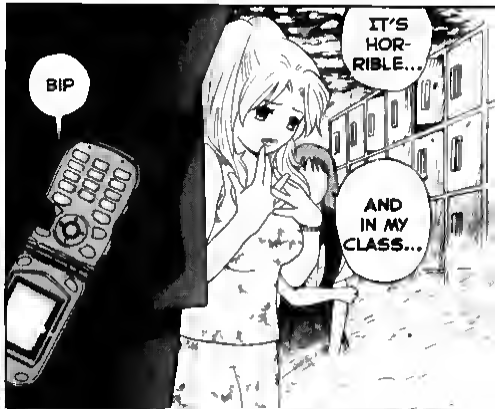
AKANE NAKAGAWA...?!
!!
TAK
TAK
TAK
NAKAGAWA, AKANE
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
PERSONAL INFORMATION FAMILY HISTORY DATA BASE SEARCHING
ピコー
ピコー
NAKAGAWA, AKANE
3-A
DECEASED
HURRY UP!
COME ON...
SUP
SUP
CONNECTING TO THE INTERNET
TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
BEEP
BEEP

YOU TURNED AN HONEST STUDENT... LIKE AKANE NAKAGAWA... INTO A PROSTITUTE?!
IT'S NO WONDER THAT NAOYA TRIED TO AVENGE HER...

YUSUKE SAWAMURA... WHAT A DESPI-CABLE HUMAN BEING YOU ARE!


SO THAT'S THE CONNEC-TION...!
BUT THAT'S ALL!!
SOMEONE CALLED CHICKEN E-MAILED ME! HE SAID THAT HE'D KILL YUSUKE IF I DIDN'T STEAL SOME CHEMICALS FROM MY DAD'S COMPANY!!


I'M NOT HIM!
NO... NO, MR. EMA!!


BIP
IT'S HOR-RIBLE...
AND IN MY CLASS...

DIALING
B-
B
BIP
BIP
BIP
BEEP
THE COMPUTER IS CALLING THE SCHOOL AGAIN!!
KOU?!
YES. I'M PULLING THE DATA FROM THE WEB RIGHT NOW...
OKAY! AS SOON AS THE CALL FINISHES, GO BACK TO THE PASSWORD MONITOR!
REALLY?
I'VE GOT A HINT FOR THE PASSWORD!!

WE'RE ALMOST THERE--! THANK GOD!
WE'LL KNOW THE BOMBER'S IDENTITY SOON.
HELLO, SHOTO HIGH SCHOOL. CHICKEN, HERE.
IT'S HIM AGAIN...
PUT ME ON THE LOUD-SPEAKER AGAIN
Y-YES...
RING
CLICK

IN OTHER WORDS, THE REASON WHY I'VE INVOLVED YOU ALL IN MY LITTLE GAME
THE TIME HAS COME TO LET YOU ALL IN ON MY BIG SECRET.
WE CAN'T AFFORD ANY MORE SLIP-UPS...
AYAKI'S LIFE IS ON THE LINE!!
SNAP

OH MY GOD!
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FILE 23 SURVIVAL SCHOOL
SALVATION

THANKS TO MY BOMBS, YOUR LIVES ARE IN MY HANDS. BUT YOU CAN BLAME IT ALL ON YOUR CLASSMATES ..
THE TIME HAS COME TO LET YOU ALL IN ON MY BIG SECRET
IN OTHER WORDS, THE REASON WHY I'VE INVOLVED YOU ALL IN MY LITTLE GAME
...IN CLASS 3A...!!
IT'S HIM! HE'S TALKING ABOUT YUSUKE!!

WHAT?! YOU'RE PUTTING THE BLAME ON ME?
WAIT A MINUTE! IT'S NOT JUST ME!
MINA IS THE ONE WHO FIRST SAID AKANE WAS ANNOYING!
AND EIJI, TOO! HE SUGGESTED THAT WE E-MAIL THE PICTURE!
JUST A MINUTE! THIS WAS ALL YOUR "MASTER PLAN!"

PETTY, SELF-ABSORBED BRATS...
!
SIGH... SO MUCH FOR OUR SO-CALLED ELITE STU-DENTS...
...
MR. EMA...?
SALVATION...?
HEAR ME NOW, ELITE OF SHOTO HIGH SCHOOL!! FOR THIS WILL BE YOUR SALVATION...

THIS IS IT, AYAKI!
THE BOMBER'S TRUE PURPOSE.
...IS ABOUT TO BE REVEALED!
RIGHT!
STUDENTS--YOU MUST JUDGE THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR AKANE NAKAGAWA'S DEATH!!

CONSIDER THIS AS THE FINAL EXAM IN SURVIVAL SCHOOL!
WHAT?!
WHAT... WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
BIP
BIP
BIP
BIP
THE ACCUSED ARE NOW
IN THE CENTRAL ENTRANCE HALL!

YOU ALL MUST BECOME THE JUDGE AND JURY OF YOUR MURDEROUS PEERS!
LET'S GO!
MOVE IT!
ざわ
ざわ
NOW IT'S UP TO THE REST OF YOU.
PIP
PUNISH THE GUILTY!!
!!?

WHEN JUSTICE IS SERVED...
...I'LL LET EVERYONE GO FREE!
HEH HEH HEH
THAT'S GREAT!
HE...HE DOESN'T WANT MONEY...!
WE'LL ALL BE SAFE IF WE DO!!
HURRY!! WE GOTTA KILL THOSE RESPON-SIBLE!!

AYAKI-- GET YOUR GUN READY!!
YES SIR!
SHA-CLICK

I'M BACK TO THE PASSWORD MONITOR NOW!
KOU! THE COMPUTER HAS DISCONNECTED THE PHONE!
TAK TAK
COPY THAT!
GOOD! ENTER THIS PASSWORD--
AKANE NAKAGAWA
TAK TAK
AFTER HER PARENTS' DIVORCE
TAK TAK
FAMILY NAME CHANGED
Akane Nakagawa Personal Data
TAK TAK
"A-K-A-N-E"... IT'S AKANE!

!!
IT'S HIM...! THIS IS THE CHICKEN!!

THERE THEY ARE! IT MUST BE THOSE THREE-- YUSUKE AND HIS CRONIES!!
WHAT?!
!
SH-SHIT!!
HOLY- -!!
KILL THEM!!

IT'S THE ONLY WAY OUT OF THIS!
KILL 'EM!!
GET 'EM!
EVERY-ONE--STOP!!
PUSH HER!
おおおお

HEE HEE HEE...
AKANE... YOUR SOUL IS SAVED NOW...
AW, FUCK...!! WE'RE TOAST!!

DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND STEP BACK...!!
EVERYONE-- FREEZE!! THIS IS THE POLICE!!

YOU...! DON'T MOVE!!
CLICK
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED ...
!!
...
...THAT YOU WOULD BE THE BOMBER...!!

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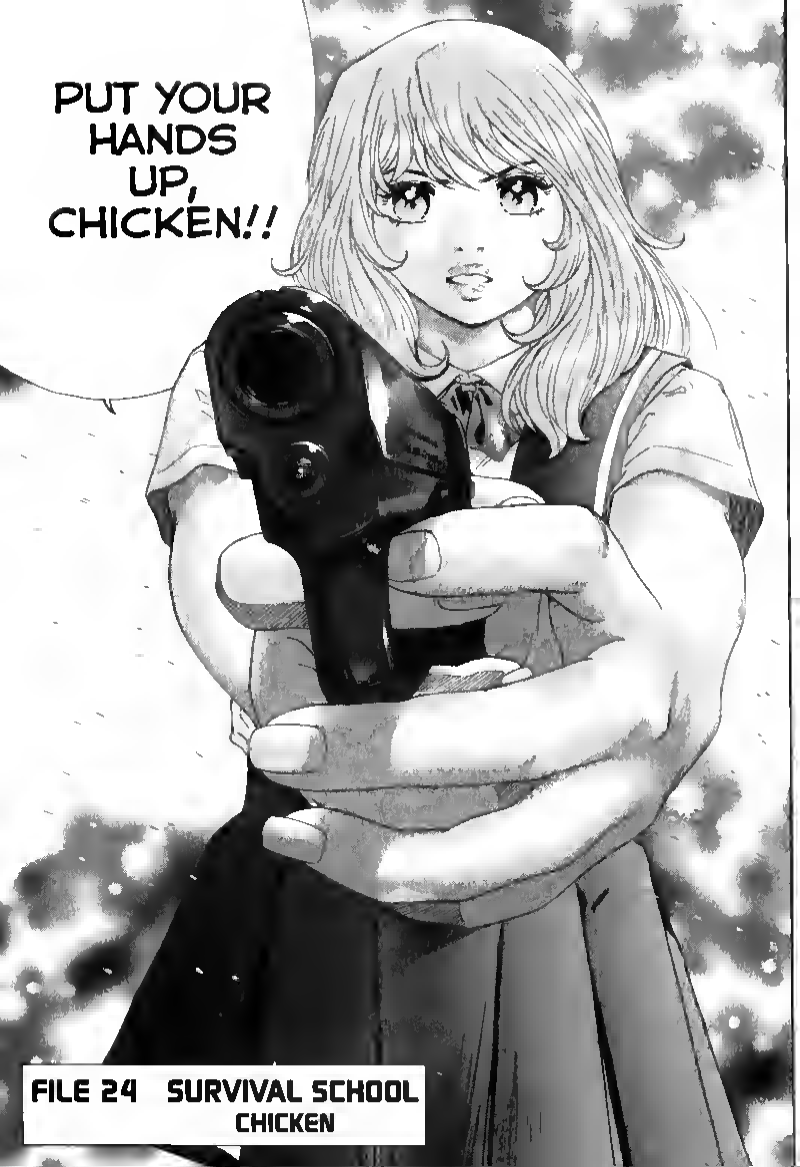
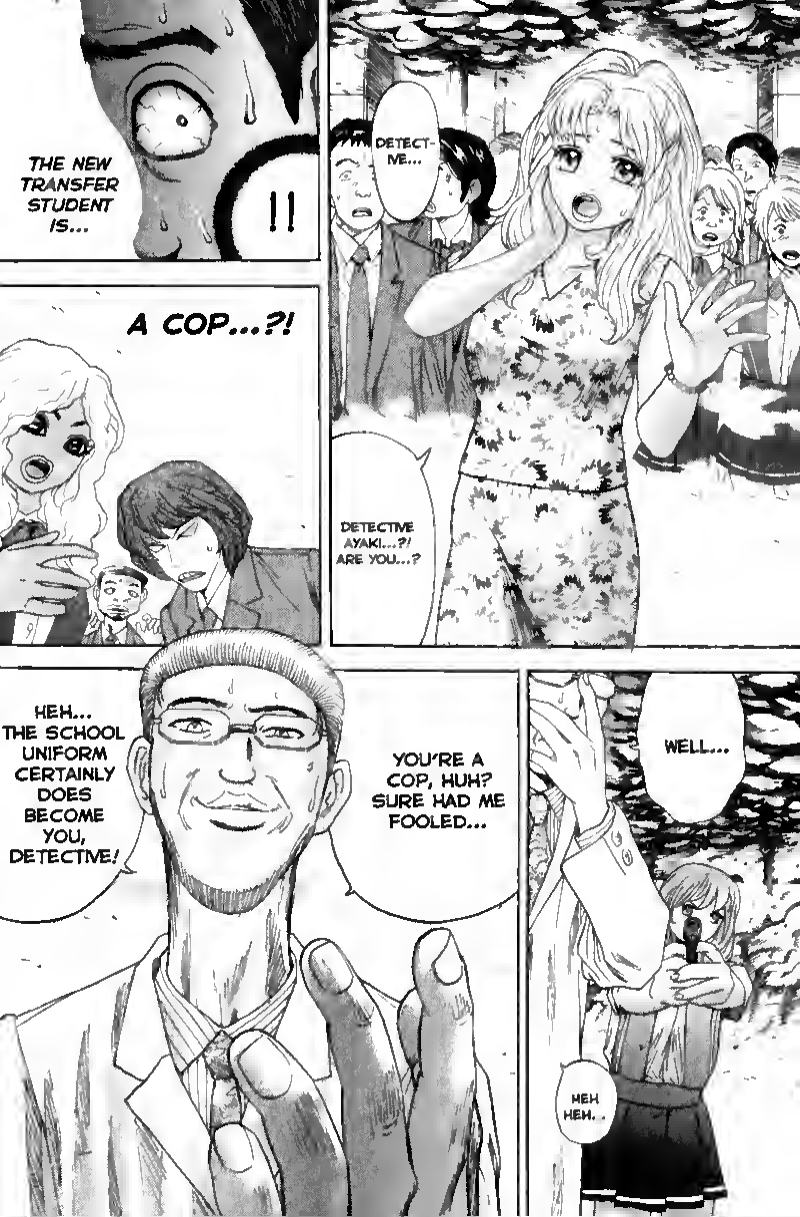


FILE 24 SURVIVAL SCHOOL
CHICKEN

YOU'RE THE ONE BEHIND ALL THIS, AREN'T YOU, MR. EMA?!


THE NEW TRANSFER STUDENT IS...
!!
DETECT-IVE...
DETECTIVE AYAKI...?! ARE YOU...?
A COP...?!
HEH... THE SCHOOL UNIFORM CERTAINLY DOES BECOME YOU, DETECTIVE!
YOU'RE A COP, HUH? SURE HAD ME FOOLED...
WELL...
HEH HEH..

MR. EMA IS THE BOMBER...? BUT... WHY?!
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...!!
HANDS IN THE AIR!
OKAY... OKAY...
NOW, MR. EMA!! OR I WILL SHOOT!!
IT'S HIM!
DAMN!

BUT I ONLY HAVE TO PUSH ONE BUTTON ON MY PHONE...
STAND-BY
OFF
SHOOT ME IF YOU WANT.

...TO DETO-NATE THE BOMB!!
OH MY GOD... INSPECTOR!!
EMA HAS THE SWITCH FOR THE BOMB IN HIS HAND...
I HEARD! DON'T PANIC! VERY CALMLY, VERY COOLLY...I WANT YOU TO TALK TO EMA.
BUT WATCH HIM CLOSELY. AND WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE...

UNDERSTAND?!
--BLOW HIS BRAINS OUT!

MR. EMA... WHY? WHY WOULD AN HONEST MAN LIKE YOU DO SUCH A HORRIBLE THING...?
!
I ...I... I UNDER-STAND.
A HOR-RIBLE THING?
MS. NAOMI... THIS IS A MERE BLEMISH COMPARED TO THE ATROCITIES THEY'VE COMMITTED!
IT'S LIKE LIVING IN HELL...

I DIVORCED HER MOTHER WHEN AKANE WAS ONLY FIVE. AKANE NEVER EVEN KNEW THAT I WAS HER FATHER.
YOU SEE, MY EX-WIFE HAD REMARRIED— SO THEIR NAME CHANGED TO NAKAGAWA.
I COULDN'T SEE HER FOR A LONG, LONG TIME... I'D PROMISED NOT TO.
BUT AFTER TWELVE YEARS, I LEARNED THAT SHE WAS TRANSFERRING HERE. I WAS SO HAPPY...THAT WAS THE ONLY MOMENT THAT I WAS GLAD TO BE A TEACHER IN THIS DISGUSTING "ELITE" SCHOOL!

WHEN THOSE BASTARDS DROVE HER TO SUICIDE, THEY MURDERED NOT ONLY A GOOD STUDENT AND A DECENT HUMAN BEING...BUT MY DAUGHTER AS WELL!!
WHAT?!

I REMEMBER THE FIRST DAY I TALKED TO HER...

GOOD MORNING, AKANE...
OH...
WOW! THAT'S AMAZING, MR. EMA!
?
UM... I MEAN, MISS NAKAGAWA...
I JUST TRANSFERRED HERE, BUT YOU ALREADY KNOW MY FIRST NAME!
SHE WAS GROWING UP TO BE AN UP-STANDING AND HONEST, YOUNG WOMAN.
JUST BEING NEAR HER FILLED THE HOLE IN MY HEART I NEVER KNEW I HAD.
EXCUSE ME.
WELL... HA HA!
OH...

I WAS ABLE SEE HER EVERY DAY...UNTIL...
HER SKULL'S FRAC-TURED!
QUICK! OVER HERE!
WITNESSES SAY SHE JUST JUMPED OFF THE ROOF!!
A HOSPITAL WON'T DO THIS POOR GIRL ANY GOOD!
HOW COULD SUCH A THING HAPPEN...?!
HOW...

AKANEEE!!
I-IT ALL HAPPENED RIGHT UNDER MY NOSE-- BUT I COULDN'T SEE IT!!

I KNEW SHE WAS BECOMING MORE DEPRESSED EVERY DAY... BUT I DID NOTHING! HER OWN FATHER...!
WHAT A FOOL I AM!! A STUPID, COWARDLY CHICKEN!!
SHE DIDN'T HAVE TO DIE!!

STAND-BY
OFF
KRRK
!!
GULP...
USE THE ANA-LYZING SOFT-WARE!
NO! "AKANE" ISN'T IT...!
THEN CHANGE THE COMBI-NATION!
BOB!
HAVE YOU FOUND THE PASS-WORD YET?!

ADD "EMA" AND "CHICKEN" AS HINTS FOR THE PASSWORD!!
YES SIR!!
I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO SHOOT EMA!
AYAKI!
Y-YES?!
WHAT...?!

I C-
CAN'T!!
N-NO...
!!?
TIME'S UP!
YOU HAVE TO
SHOOT TO
KILL--NOW!!

THEN DO IT!!
Y-YES/ BUT...
IS THAT SO?! DO YOU EVER WANT TO SEE YOUR FIANCÉ AGAIN?!
I... I CAN'T!
EMA MAY BE THE BOMBER...
...BUT HE'S ALSO A VICTIM!!

file.24 END

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FILE 25 SURVIVAL SCHOOL
DRASTIC MEASURES

I CAN'T DO IT, INSPECTOR!
I-I'M JUST NOT THAT RUTHLESS... OR COLD...

NO, YOU'RE CRAZY!
YOU'RE SYMPATHIZING WITH A MANIAC?! THIS ISN'T ABOUT JUSTICE!! HE'S DOING THIS FOR HIS OWN SELFISH, COWARDLY REASONS!!
HE DOESN'T CARE IF HE DIES--OR IF HE TAKES THE ENTIRE SCHOOL WITH HIM!

IS THIS A MAN WORTH DYING FOR?!
YOU STILL THINK YOU CAN'T SHOOT?!
I KNOW HE'S WRONG, BUT I CAN'T JUST SHOOT HIM!!
I'M NOT AN EMOTIONLESS ROBOT! I FEEL SYMPATHY FOR A HUMAN BEING IN PAIN!
I'M NOT LIKE YOU!
I...
I...

AYAKI...!

KILLED BY A WORTHLESS SHIT LIKE THIS!
AKANE... MY POOR BABY....

UHH...
UH...
YOU...! YOU FORCED MY LITTLE GIRL TO DEGRADE HERSELF!! YOU TURNED MY ANGEL INTO A WHORE!!

ｶﾞ"
SHOOT, GOD DAMMIT!!
AYAKI!!

キリキリ
MAKE THE BAS-TARD BLEED FOR ME!!
I WANT YOU TO SLASH YUSUKE'S THROAT WITH THIS!
HEY-- YOU THERE!
YES...
Y...
O-OKAY...
OR I'LL KILL US ALL!!
HERE...! DO IT QUICKLY!
WHA...
H-HEY...
EIJI?!
YOU SERI-OUS...?
WHAT ...?!

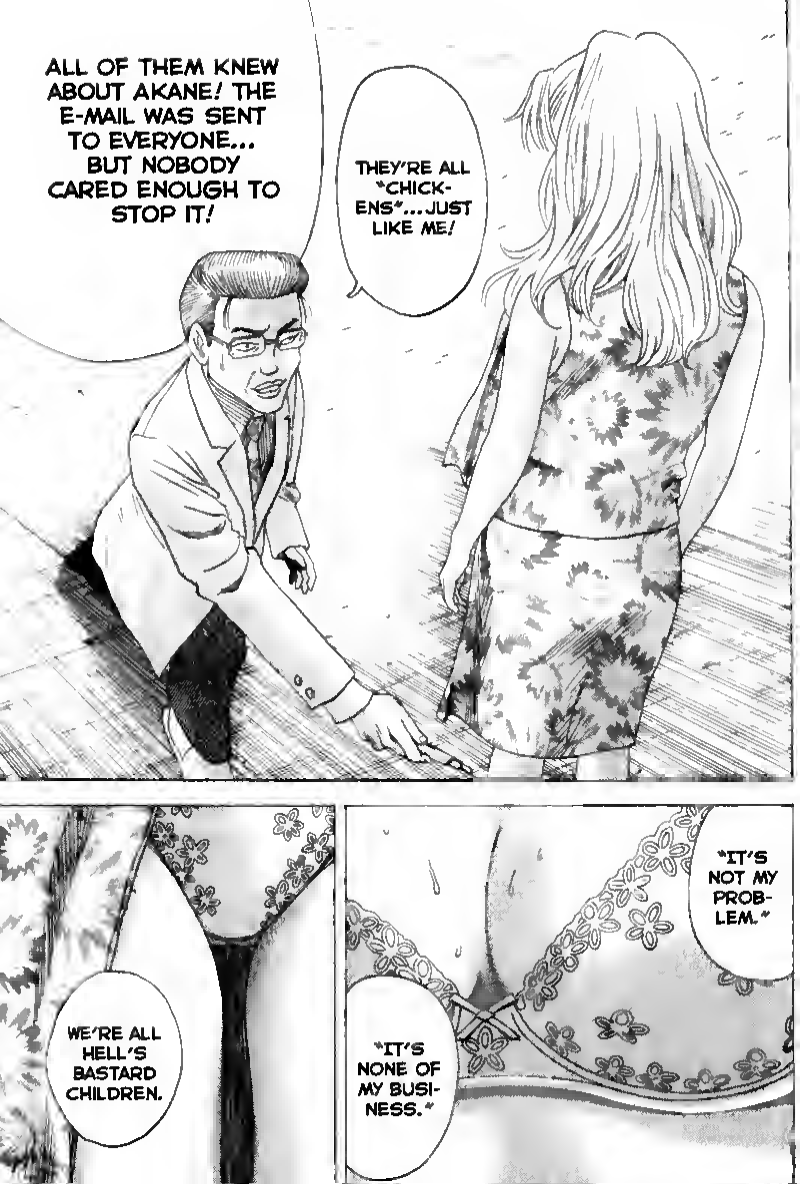
DON'T MOVE, YUSUKE! IT'LL BE OVER SOON...
C-CUT IT OUT, EIJI...!!
EIJI--WAIT! IF YOU DO THIS, MY FATHER WILL...
BUT...
I'M... SORRY... YUSUKE...
I...I DON'T WANNA DIE...

HNH/
EIJI! YOU DICK!!
HOW'S THIS, DETECTIVE... I'LL FREE EVERYONE IF EIJI CUTS HIS THROAT!
. . .
NONE OF THIS WILL BRING AKANE BACK!!
DON'T DO THIS!!
AYAKI... JUST... SHOOT...
HEH HEH HEH...
IT'S A FAIR TRADE...
. . .
N- NO...

WE UNDERSTAND THAT WHAT YUSUKE DID WAS UNFORGIVABLE... BUT...DO YOU HAVE TO KILL HIM?! HE'S STILL ONLY A BOY! I'M SURE HE REGRETS...
MR. EMA!! THIS HAS GONE FAR ENOUGH...!!
MONSTERS LIKE THIS DOESN'T HAVE REGRETS!!
REGRETS?! YOU DARE SPEAK TO ME OF REGRET?! THAT'S A HUMAN EMOTION!!

I BEG TO DIFFER! DIDN'T YOU SEE HOW THEY FOUGHT?! THESE AREN'T INNOCENT CHILDREN...
THEY'RE SCUM!
T-THEY'RE CHIL-DREN!
MONSTERS...?!
UH...
GIVE IT TO ME!
NOT ONLY DOES THIS SCHOOL ALLOW THEM TO RUN RAMPANT, LEGALLY THEY'RE STILL MINORS, RIGHT?
WHAT WOULD THEY GET? PROBATION AT MOST!
HOW CAN I BE SATISFIED WITH THAT?!
!!
MY LITTLE GIRL WAS RAPED, PROSTI-TUTED AND KILLED!! SO SPARE ME YOUR MISGUIDED PLEA FOR SYMPATHY!

B-BUT IF YOU TRIGGER THE BOMB, OTHER INNOCENT STUDENTS WILL--
DIE? WELL, THEY ALL DESERVE IT.
!!
THEY'RE SPOILED... PERVERTED...
...
RIP
...AND COWARDLY.
RIP
RIP


ALL OF THEM KNEW ABOUT AKANE! THE E-MAIL WAS SENT TO EVERYONE... BUT NOBODY CARED ENOUGH TO STOP IT!
THEY'RE ALL "CHICK-ENS"... JUST LIKE ME!
"IT'S NOT MY PROB-LEM."
"IT'S NONE OF MY BUSI-NESS."
WE'RE ALL HELL'S BASTARD CHILDREN.

GUILTY OF DENYING REALITY! GUILTY OF NOT DOING YOUR JOB!!
EVEN YOU, MS. SAKAKI. WITH ALL YOUR IDEALS AND NAÏVETÉ ...YOU'RE GUILTY, TOO!

WE'RE TEACHERS, ARE WE NOT? ISN'T THIS AN OPPORTUNITY TO TEACH THESE IDIOTS RESPONSIBILITY?!
LET THEM LEARN THAT THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES TO THEIR ACTIONS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK, DETECTIVE... AYAKI, IS IT?
!
WHEN IT COMES TO TEACHING CHILDREN, DRASTIC MEASURES ARE SOMETIMES REQUIRED.
A MOST VALUABLE LESSON, DON'T YOU THINK...?

UH...
UH...
ISN'T THAT RIGHT, DETECTIVE...?
AYAKI!! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!
SHOOT HIM BEFORE HE KILLS YOU ALL!!

PLEASE, KURUMI... JUST SHOOT...
PLEASE...
CLASS DIS MISSED.
HMM... ALAS, I THINK MY LESSON TOUCHES DEAF EARS. VERY WELL...

ドゥ

AH/
ENOUGH!! SHE HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS!!
YEOWWW!!
WH-WHAT THE HELL...?!
YOU LITTLE SHIT!! YOU DARE...?!

ドゴッ
ドドッ
OOOHHH
AKANE..
A...
THINK YOU'RE INNOCENT TOO, HUH?! I'LL KILL YOU ALL!!
FILTHY MONGREL!! JUST LIKE MS SAKAKI!!

AAAIIEEE!!

110
ン

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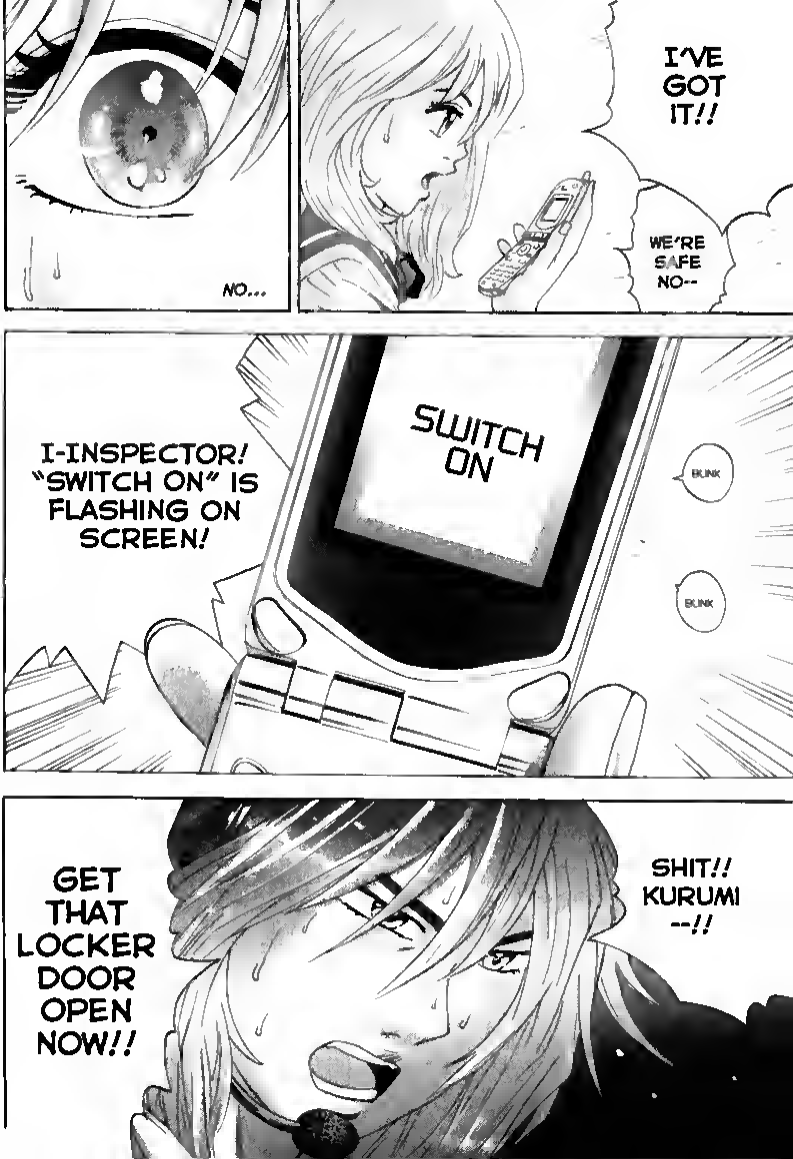
GYAAAAAAAH!!

NYAHHH!! MY HAND!!
!!
?!
MS. SAKAKI !!

GIVE ME HIS PHONE!! IT CONTROLS THE BOMB!!
AYAKI!! WHERE'S THE REMOTE?!
O-OKAY


NO...
I'VE GOT IT!!
WE'RE SAFE NO--
I-INSPECTOR! "SWITCH ON" IS FLASHING ON SCREEN!
SWITCH ON
BLINK
BLINK
GET THAT LOCKER DOOR OPEN NOW!!
SHIT!! KURUMI --!!

CLONK

02:49
02:48
CLICK
OMIGOD!!
THE TIMER IS COUNTING DOWN!!

C-CALM DOWN... L-LISTEN, AYAKI...
.....
IT'S THE ONLY WAY...TO STOP IT...!!
YOU MUST DEFUSE THE BOMB...
WHAT?!
EVERY-ONE--TAKE COVER!
FIRST--HAVE THE STUDENTS TAKE SHELTER!
H-HOW DO I DO THAT?!
OKAY ...!! THEY'RE GOING!! WHAT NOW?!
IF WE LEAVE NOW THE BOMB WILL EXPLODE!
EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NO GUARANTEE THAT THEY'LL BE SAFE...
QUICK! TELL ME!!

KOU!! I'M IN!♡ I'VE GOT THE PASSWORD!!
FIND THE BOMB'S SCHEMATIC! WE HAVE ONLY TWO MINUTES!!
TWO MINU-TES?!
THE BOMB IS ALREADY COUNTING DOWN! HURRY!!
AYAKI! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
YEAH!
TWO AND A HALF MINUTES LEFT!!
IT'S ENOUGH... IT'LL BE OKAY... JUST STAY CALM...!
BIP
BIP
AW CRUD..

NOW--CUT THE YELLOW LINE!
Y-YELLOW?
YELLOW... RIGHT?!
I-I CUT IT...!
SNIP
CUT IT!
QUIET!! JUST WAIT...!
INSPEC-TOR...? INSPEC-TOR?!
ORANGE! CUT THE ORANGE!!
ORANGE ...
OKAY!
THE BROWN ONE NEXT!
SNIP
GOT IT!
NOW GREEN...
WHAT'S NEXT?
WHAT'S THE NEXT COLOR?!

SO CUT THE WHITE FIRST?
ARE THERE WHITE AND BLACK WIRES LEFT?!
NO, DAM-MIT!!
JUST CUT IT!!
Y-YOU DON'T SOUND SURE, INSPEC--
ORANGE...? ARE YOU SURE...?
YOU STILL THERE?!
Y-YES...
NOW THIS IS THE REAL PROBLEM...
ピ
ロ
リ

ON THE LEFT SIDE...
INSPECTOR, HURRY!! WE'VE GOT LESS THAN TWO MINUTES!!
02:00
CLICK
01:59
ONLY ONE OF THEM IS THE CORRECT ONE--THE OTHER'S A TRAP!
01:54
THERE ARE RED AND BLUE LINES LEFT. RIGHT...?
YES...
WHICH IS THE CORRECT ONE...?!
CUT THE WRONG ONE...
...AND IT'LL EXPLODE!

I...I DON'T KNOW...
.....
BOB IS LOOKING FOR THE ANSWER RIGHT NOW!! HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE LEFT?!
WHAT?! I-I CAN'T! Y-YOU HAVE TO HELP ME!!
!!

LESS THAN A MINUTE...
00:58
UH...
CLICK
AND ?!
BOB! BOB?! WHAT'S HAPPENING ...?!
!!
KOUI I FOUND THE ANSWER!
IT'S BLUE ... UNLESS THIS IS ANOTHER TRAP.
NO MATTER! WE HAVE TO GAMBLE...
00:47

BLUE! CUT THE BLUE WIRE!!
AYAKI!! CAN YOU HEAR ME?
BZZZZZZZ!!
INSPECTOR HIMURO?!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU!
HELLO?!
HELLO...?
IN. INSPECTOR?

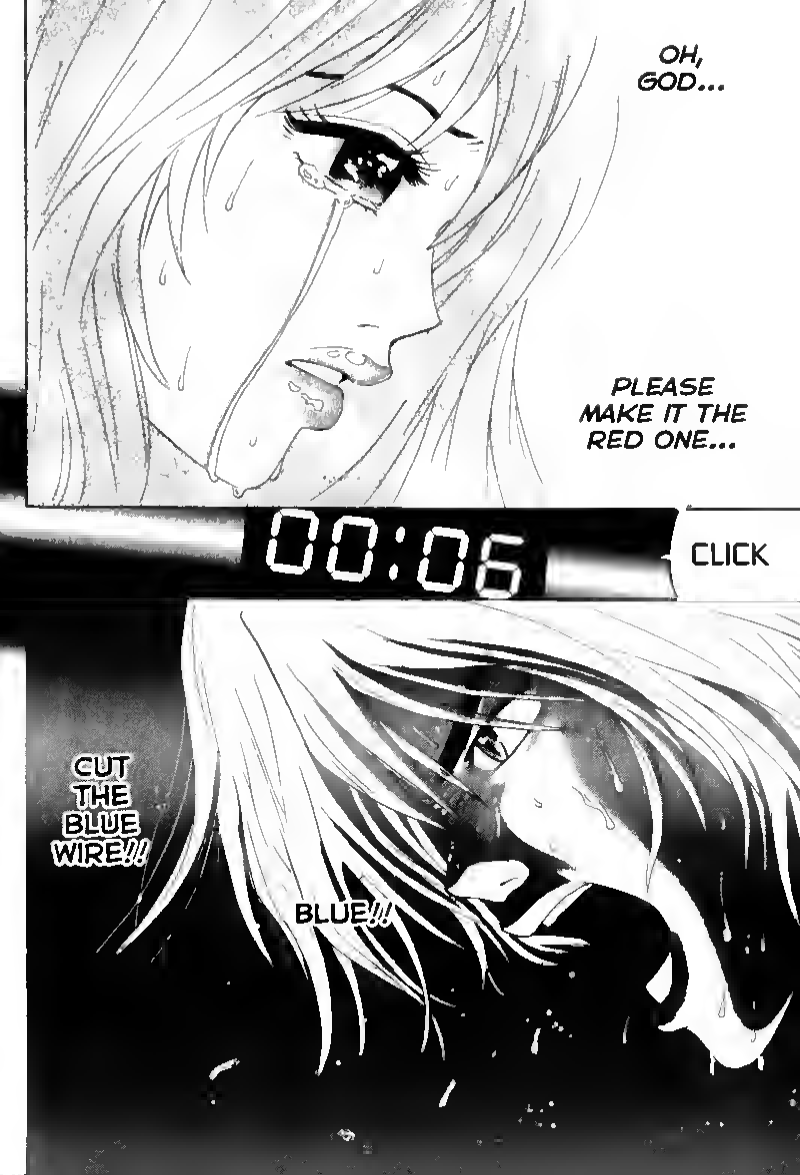
BREE
BREE
BREE
WHAT...?!
THE BATTERY IS... DEAD?!
NO BATTERY

NO...
NO!!
NO...
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!!

NO...
IT'S IN MY BAG!!
SHOULD I RUN?!
W-WHAT SHOULD I DO?!
GOTTA GET THE SPARE...!
I HAVE TO CHANGE THE BATTERY...!
00:20
NO! THERE'S NO TIME...!!
WHICH WIRE?! RED OR BLUE?!
OMIGOD, OMIGOD!!

SHINGO... I'M SORRY...
THIS IS IT...
INSPECTOR HIMURO...!!
IF I DO NOTHING, IT'LL EXPLODE ANYWAY...
OKAY...! HERE I GO...!
I HAVE TO CHOOSE!

BECAUSE I...I LIKE RED... BETTER!!
BLUE?
NO, IT'S GOT TO BE RED!
RED...
I'LL CUT IT!!


OH, GOD...
PLEASE MAKE IT THE RED ONE...
00:06
CLICK
CUT THE BLUE WIRE!!
BLUE!!

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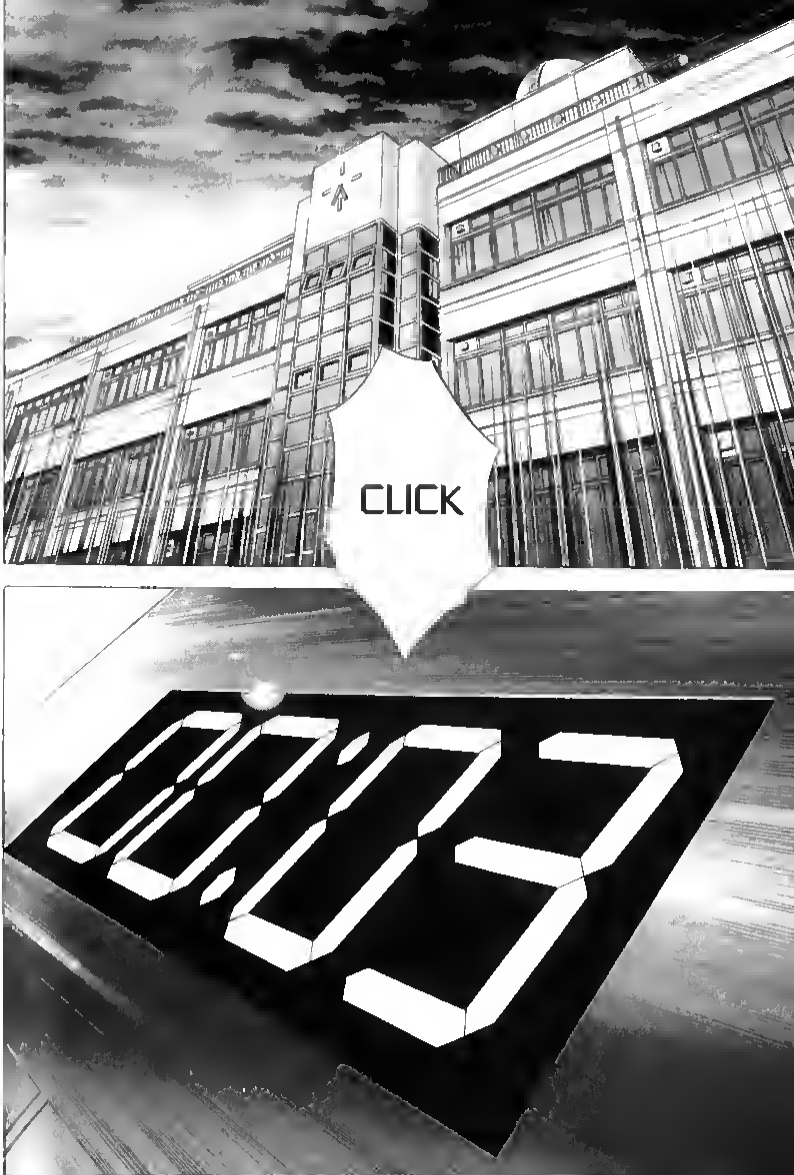
FILE 27 SURVIVAL SCHOOL
THE BITTER END

HUH...?!
BLUE?!

AYAKI!! IT'S BLUE!!
CUT THE BLUE ONE!!


CLICK
0:03

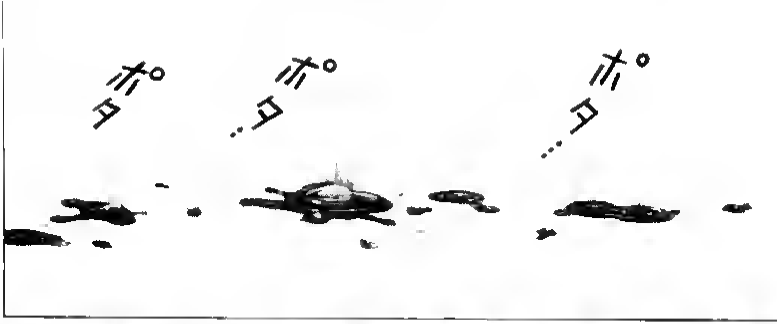
. . . . . .
DID YOU MAKE IT...?
DID YOU..
ヘタリ
I-I MADE IT...
... KOZA-BURO ...

I DID IT...!!

YES... I...

AM I...AM I ALIVE...?

GOOD WORK.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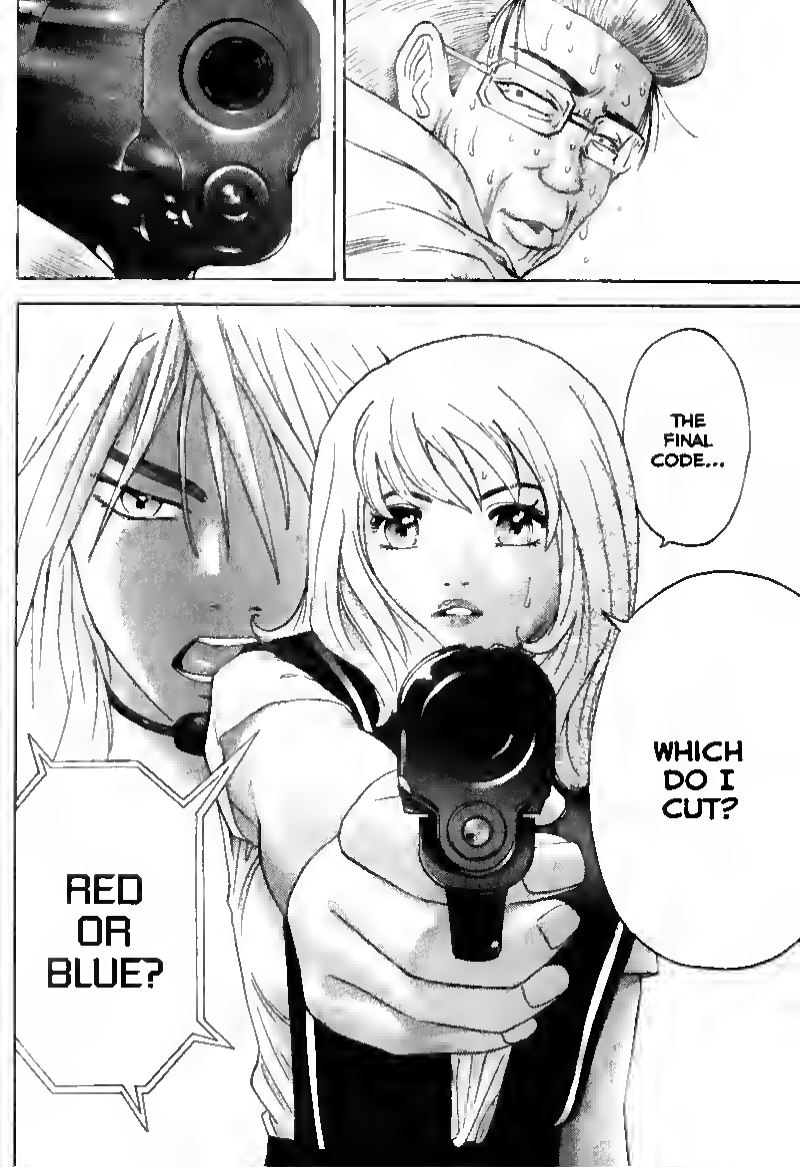
NOT OVER YET...

I'LL REACH THE SENSOR... BLOW UP...THE SCHOOL... MYSELF...
ブシャ

!!


THE FINAL CODE...
WHICH DO I CUT?
RED OR BLUE?

TELL ME... RED OR BLUE...? WHICH DERCTIVATES THE BOMB...?
GULP
IT'S... RED.
I SEE.
AS I THOUGHT.
IF YOU CUT RED... EVERYONE WILL BE SPARED...

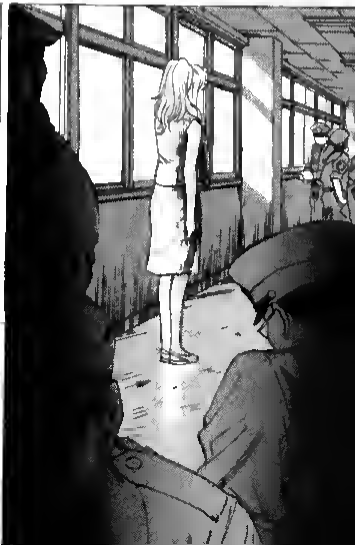
HE COULDN'T HAVE PICKED A MORE APPROPRIATE NAME. HE IS A CHICKEN.

AKANE!!
AH... AH... AHH...
AAAAHH!!
THE ANSWER WAS BLUE.

MR. EMA-- FOR THE CHARGES OF MURDER, ATTEMPTED MURDER, KIDNAPPING AND TERRORISM...
...I HEREBY PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST!
ヤ
ニ
ヤ

M P D

YES, IT HAS BEEN AWHILE, HASN'T IT?
YOU SOUND THE SAME AS EVER!



KOZA-
BURO...
NO...
NO, EVERYTHING IS DIFFERENT NOW...
UM...I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIME TO SAY THIS, BUT...
. I'D LOVE TO SEE YOU AGAIN SOME-TIME.
NAOMI.
LET ME TALK TO AYAKI

I WANT TO HEAR HER VOICE...

RED... IF YOU CUT RED...
...EVERYONE WILL BE SPARED!!
IS THIS A MAN WORTH DYING FOR?!

DETECTIVE AYAKI... KOS--ER, INSPECTOR HIMURO WANTS TO TALK TO YOU...
Y-YES? AYAKI HERE...
...

...
I'M SORRY...
DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO KEEP THE BATTERY CHARGED?
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M JUST GLAD...
HEH.
...YOU'RE OKAY.

ヒック
ヒック
TH...
TH...
TH..
ヒック..
ヒック..
TH-THANK YOU... SOB ... INSPECTOR...
?!
IT'S OVER, RIGHT?!
MS. SAKAKI!
WAAH
LUCKY FOR OUR REPUTATION HE'S ONLY A SUBSTITUTE!
THAT MR. EMA WAS A SICKO, HUH?
HEH♡

I was so caught up in the moment... So relieved that the case was closed...
YEOW!
SOB
AH
UU-UU-HH...
NIC
...that I forgot about the phone in my hand.
I cried to myself for a while.
But never once did I feel alone...
WAAH!
file.27 END

OH MY GOD!
WHAT AN ANGLE TO SHOOT!
Manga-Sketchbook not so proudly presents
Remote
Where ugly art and pointless fanservice combine!

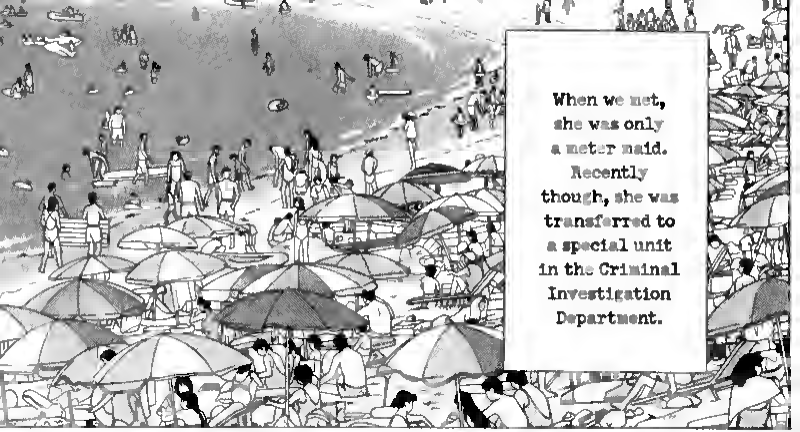
http://www.manga-sketchbook.org
#Manga Sketchbook@IrcHighway

case 3:
Bodyguard

FILE 28 BODYGUARD
WATCHING BODIES

My girlfriend--excuse me, fiancée--is a 21- year-old hottie! Well, at least I think she's hot...

But what really makes her different is that she's a cop!!


When we met, she was only a meter maid. Recently though, she was transferred to a special unit in the Criminal Investigation Department.

...

But today... today is perfect! ♡♡

Things are different now. I hardly ever see her.

OOH! IT'S SO COLD!
What could be more perfect than a day at the beach with my honey?
And speaking of perfect...
How about Kurumi's bikini? Yowza!
Tonight, at the resort up on the hill...
We'll finally spend the night together!
Yep, life is good. And tonight...
GULP

HEY, SHINGO! WHY DON'T YOU COME IN?
THE WATER FEELS GREAT!
ぱぶぁーん
OH YEAH...
THANK YOU, LORD...
TIMES
HUH?!

GREAT GATSBY!!
オオ
AW SHIT...!!
NOOOO!!
OH--GOOD MORNING, INSPECTOR!
DOWN, BOY! MUST...NOT...
WHAT'S SHE DOING?!
HUH...?!
HELLO?

I-I HAVE AN EMERGENCY AT WORK! I HAVE TO GET BACK TO TOKYO RIGHT AWAY...
OH, SHINGO... I'M SOO SORRY!
I KNOW WE PLANNED TO TAKE SOME DAYS OFF, BUT...
I KNOW YOU WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS...
I WAS, TOO...
I CAN'T. HIS CREDO IS "THERE'S NO DAYS OFF IN THE UNSOLVED CRIMES DIVISION!"
IT'S HIMURO, ISN'T IT?!
IS IT...
TELL 'IM TO SCREW OFF!!
WELL...
IT'S A...
THE JOB THIS TIME IS...
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?!
HOW COME WORK ALWAYS COMES BEFORE YOUR FIANCÉ?!

I WANT YOU TO WATCH SOMEONE. I WANT YOU TO BE A BODYGUARD.
YOU'RE GOING TO BE...
A BODY-GUARD?!
B-BODY GUARD?!
SORRY, HONEY!
I HAVE TO GET GOING...
YOU'RE JOKING?!

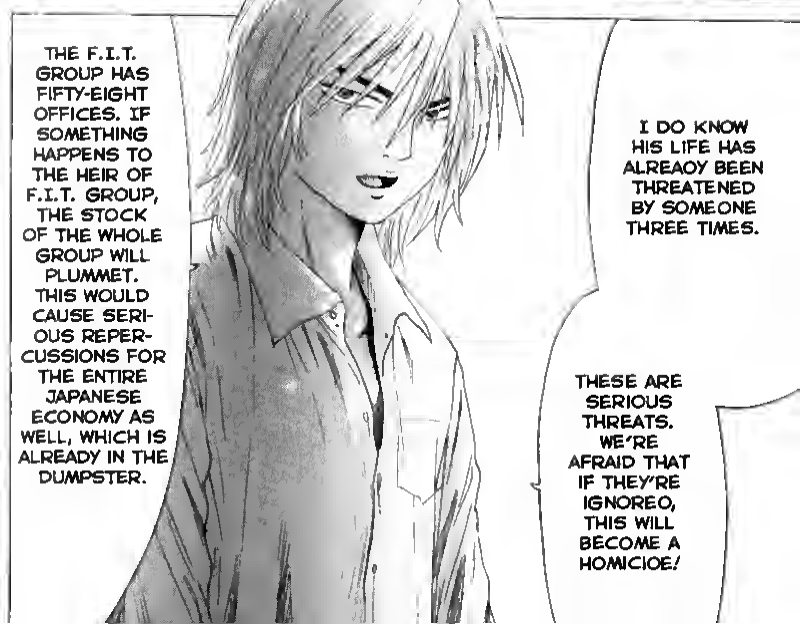
*SHINGO, I LOVE YOU. PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
EH? WHAT'S THIS...?
I KNOW YOU DO, KURUMI.
JUST DO A GOOD JOB. I'LL BE WAITING
THE RESORT AIN'T CHEAP, THOUGH.
The Crypt
I'M SURE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THIS NAME.
HEY! WATCH YOUR STEP, PUNKS!
YEAAH!

MR. JUZO FUDO, THE PRESIDENT OF F.I.T.... FUDO INTERNATIONAL TECHNOLOGY.
UM...OF COURSE...
THE PERSON YOU'RE GOING TO GUARD IS HIS GRANDSON...

?!
...SHINICHI FUDO. HE'S A SECOND-YEAR STUDENT AT SOKEI UNIVERSITY.

IT'S NOT UNCOMMON FOR A WOMAN TO BODYGUARD A V.I.P. IN EUROPE OR AMERICA.
YEAH, BUT THOSE ARE BIG, STRONG, MACHO WOMEN, RIGHT?!
HEY! MR. BODYGUARD, MEN
HE...IT'S A MAN! I THOUGHT... ISN'T IT USUALLY A MAN WHO BODYGUARDS A WOMAN?!
THIS IS THE REVERSE...!
...THERE MUST BE SOME BIG, MONSTER COPS AVAILABLE...
I'M DELICATE, AND...
DON'T WORRY. YOU'RE PERFECT.
HUH?
HUH? WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW.
.....
SHINICHI FUDO IS A...COMPLICATED PERSON. FOR SOME REASON, HE REFUSES TO LET THE POLICE GUARD HIM.
HE ALSO REFUSES BODYGUARDS FROM PRIVATE SECURITY COMPANIES, AS WELL.
BUT ...WHY?


THE F.I.T. GROUP HAS FIFTY-EIGHT OFFICES. IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO THE HEIR OF F.I.T. GROUP, THE STOCK OF THE WHOLE GROUP WILL PLUMMET. THIS WOULD CAUSE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS FOR THE ENTIRE JAPANESE ECONOMY AS WELL, WHICH IS ALREADY IN THE DUMPSTER.
I DO KNOW HIS LIFE HAS ALREADY BEEN THREATENED BY SOMEONE THREE TIMES.
THESE ARE SERIOUS THREATS. WE'RE AFRAID THAT IF THEY'RE IGNORED, THIS WILL BECOME A HOMICIDE!

LOOK--THIS MAKES NO SENSE! TO HAVE ME RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WELL-BEING OF THE NATION'S ECONOMY?!
WELL...AS LONG AS THERE'S NO PRESSURE...!
THERE ARE ONLY TWO OF US HERE...AND I CAN'T LEAVE THE ROOM. SO, IT'S UP TO YOU. UNDERSTAND?
THIS CASE CAME STRAIGHT FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO SPECIAL UNIT A.
IMPOSSIBLE!!
YOU'RE IMPOSSIBLE!
UGH!'
USING THE "SHUT-IN" EXCUSE!!
*SHUT-IN: INSPECTOR HIMURO HAS SECLUDED HIMSELF FOR REASONS UNKNOWN!

OH!
GASP!
...WHILE PRESIDENT JUZO IS IN THE HOSPITAL.
WELCOME, MS. AYAKI. I'M THE BUTLER, MUTO. I'M LOOKING AFTER THINGS...
UH, HI THERE! I'M FROM THE C.I.D AND--
?!
ガルルッ

YEEE!!
W-WHAT A BIG HEAD!
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE JUST A MAID, MS. AYAKI! PLEASE, BE CAREFUL...
NOW-- LET'S GO. MASTER SHINICHI IS WAITING FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY!!
HUH?
YES!
HE'S GOT TO BE KIDDING! THAT ROTTEN HIMURO...
HEY, WAIT...! WHY AM I A MAID?!

HUH?! INSPECTOR HIMURO?!
OH!
DIDN'T I EXPLAIN THE SITUATION?
WHAAAAT?!
JEEZ! WHAT IF I HAVE TO GO TO THE BATHROOM OR SOMETHING?!
WHY IS THE CELL PHONE CONNECTED?!
AUTO CONNECT MODE.
SINCE YOU NEVER ANSWER WHEN I CALL, I'M NOW CONNECTED ALL THE TIME.

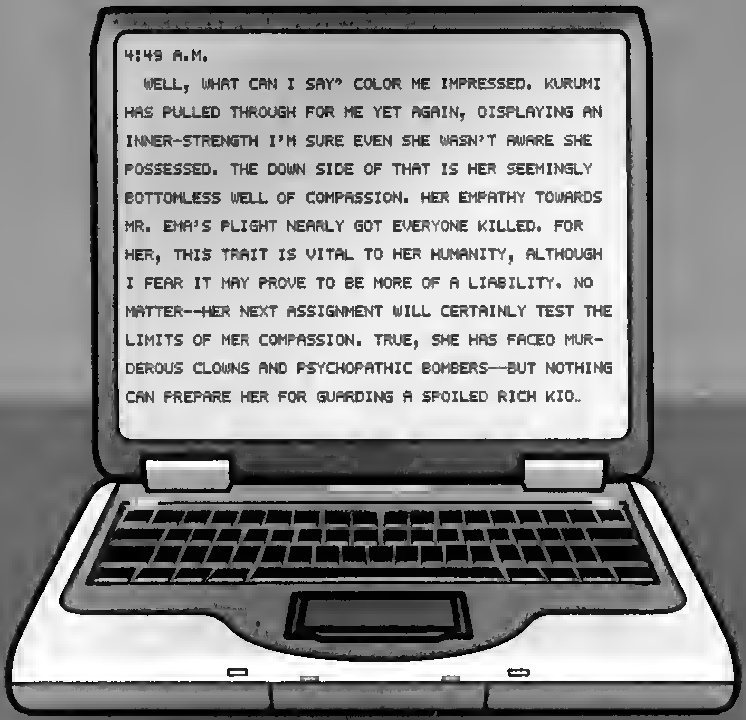
HMM... LOOKS LIKE HE WON'T LIVE LONG.
JUZO FUDO
THE PRESIDENT OF FUDO GROUP, MR. JUZO FUDO, HAD A STROKE SIX MONTHS AGO. HE'S NOW RECUPERATING.
...ALL BY HIMSELF.
SHINICHI FUDO
WHEN HE DIES, HIS GRANDSON SHINICHI WILL INHERIT A HUGE FORTUNE...
I'M SETTING YOU UP SO YOU CAN MARRY INTO MONEY
NO.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
HARDY-HAR
...THE INHERITANCE...?
SO...
ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE THREATS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH...

MISS AYAKI, MEET MASTER SHINICHI.
ANYWAY, DON'T LET ANYONE KNOW THAT YOU'RE WITH THE POLICE.
STAY WITH THE KID AT ALL TIMES AND REPORT YOUR OBSERVATIONS.
OKAY, OKAY!
MASTER SHINICHI. THE NEW HOUSE-KEEPER, KURUMI AYAKI, HAS ARRIVED.
GULP...
PLEASE TAKE GOOD CARE OF HIM.

HAAAA!!
WHAT...?!

ヘタリ…
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS JOB...?!
EVERYONE I MEET IS A FLAT-OUT PSYCHO!!
ARE YOU REALLY A MAID?
ON MY GRANDFATHER'S NAME--IF YOU LIE TO ME, I'LL RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR LIFE!!

FROM THE JOURNALS OF KOZABURO HIMURO:


4:49 A.M.
WELL, WHAT CAN I SAY? COLOR ME IMPRESSED. KURUMI HAS PULLED THROUGH FOR ME YET AGAIN, DISPLAYING AN INNER-STRENGTH I'M SURE EVEN SHE WASN'T AWARE SHE POSSESSED. THE DOWN SIDE OF THAT IS HER SEEMINGLY BOTTOMLESS WELL OF COMPASSION. HER EMPATHY TOWARDS MR. EMA'S PLIGHT NEARLY GOT EVERYONE KILLED. FOR HER, THIS TRAIT IS VITAL TO HER HUMANITY, ALTHOUGH I FEAR IT MAY PROVE TO BE MORE OF A LIABILITY. NO MATTER--HER NEXT ASSIGNMENT WILL CERTAINLY TEST THE LIMITS OF HER COMPASSION. TRUE, SHE HAS FACED MURDEROUS CLOWNS AND PSYCHOPATHIC BOMBERS--BUT NOTHING CAN PREPARE HER FOR GUARDING A SPOILED RICH KID.

HIMURO AND AYAKI
ARE BACK ON THE CASE IN...

.remote.

VOLUME 4